

July is Recreation and Parks Month Proclamation Recipients

July has been declared as Recreation and Parks Month across the country. This year we honor five individuals and one organization which, through their actions, represent the importance of Recreation and Parks in Rockville and across the country.

Jean Brady, a member of the Rockville Municipal Pool since 1969, is a lifelong swimmer who started swimming competitively at age 75. She was a Gold medal winner at the Maryland Senior Olympics for several years and has competed nationally. Jean is scheduled to compete again in the National Senior Olympics this month in Cleveland, Ohio. She credits the staff at the Rockville Swim & Fitness Center, particularly Steve Ezequiel, for improving her skills.

Bill Stayeas has operated Seven Locks Barber & Hairstylists in Rockville since 1978. As of January 2013, he has run 102 marathons in all 50 states and Washington D.C. After developing varicose veins at age 47 from standing at his barbershop, his doctor recommended he start walking. Eventually a conversation with a customer led him to set a goal to run the Marine Corps Marathon. Another customer convinced him to start running multiple marathons a year. He and his wife have seen the country by visiting each state for Bill to run marathons. He completed his goal by running in the 50th state this year. He has run the Marine Corps Marathon 17 times.

Sophie Chan-Wood started riding her bike in the New York City suburbs at age 8 after her parents bought her a 3-speed Schwinn bicycle with a banana seat and loud bell. In 2008, after moving to Rockville, she joined the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee following the Ride and Stride for Rockville. Her enthusiasm for cycling is infectious; she is a tireless proponent of cycling in Rockville. Sophie warmly encourages everyone to ride their bike and use the Rockville bike map, bridges, paths, lanes and routes. Sophie commutes using the Carl Henn Millennium Trail --Rockville's Bicycle Beltway-- and other bike routes in Rockville to get to work and run errands. Sophie also leads and assists organized recreational rides in Rockville on most weekends.

Anne Goodman and Jim Farrelly have sponsored invasive plant pulls in the John G. Hayes Preserve. They have also led tours of Backyard Wildlife Habitats in Rockville which have been certified by the National Wildlife Federation. They have promoted the environmentally sustainable practices that are consistent with the lessons learned in

Recreation and Parks sponsored workshops and community events in the city. Anne has planted native seeds and plants donated by Chesapeake Natives, a native plant rescue group, and participated in stream clean-ups and stream monitoring efforts. Anne and Jim have worked with the Recreation and Parks Department staff to have five city parks (The Nature Center, Senior Center, College Gardens, Monument and Twinbrook) certified by the National Wildlife Federation as Backyard Wildlife Habitats. Those certifications support Jim and Anne's volunteer mission to achieve certification for the City of Rockville as a Wildlife Habitat.

The Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc. represented by Chip Boylan, supports recreation programs and services as well as the parks and facilities offered by the City of Rockville Department of Recreation and Parks. Since its incorporation in 2008, the Foundation has supported the mission of Recreation and Parks by providing more than \$25,000 in funds to refurbish a bus to transport teens, donating \$5,000 per year to sports programs and equipment through the Ken Peifer Memorial Sports Fund and additional financial assistance for recreation scholarships to families in need. Chip Boylan is the current President of the Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc.